

have had about the Secretary's truthfulness in the entire matter. The Secretary gave inconsistent and puzzling testimony about his version of a conversation with an old friend, Paul Eckstein, on the day of the casino decision in 1995, a version in which the Secretary essentially admitted making false and misleading statements to his friend. The Secretary also gave confusing and questionable testimony about his state of mind at the time that he wrote to Sen. John McCain about the Eckstein conversation. Contrary to Babbitt's testimonial protestations, the letter itself was misleading in both presentation and effect.

In addition to the Secretary's questionable testimony, the Senate committee uncovered a string of facts and circumstances that raised the specter that the Hudson casino decision may have been corrupted by bribes disguised as political contributions from opponent Indian tribes – tribes with casinos located near the Twin Cities metropolitan area, who wanted to prevent new competition in their gaming market. Specifically, the evidence suggested that the opponent Indian tribes may have given or promised campaign contributions to the Democratic Party as a result of an agreement with one or more government officials – from either the White House or the Department of Interior – for action against the casino application. That is, in return for the opponent tribes promising to make campaign contributions, White House officials may have interceded with the Interior Department on their behalf, or Interior officials may have influenced or effected the denial of the application.